



STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

"Dedicated to making Florida a better place to call home"

JEB BUSH
Governor

STEVEN M. SEIBERT
Secretary

September 11, 2000

Mr. John Wilson
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Assessment and Watershed Protection Division (AWPD)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Environmental Protection Agency - Notice of Availability and Request for
Comment on Draft Plan of Action for Reducing, Mitigating, and Controlling
Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico
SAI: FL200007280520C

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the above-referenced project.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) offers a number of comments regarding the proposed action plan and notes its support. DEP notes that it is critically important to conduct additional research and to employ greater attention and to improve coordination to remediate such a serious problem. As a semi-enclosed basin, impacts to Gulf waters have the potential to impact all Gulf states and the proposed action plan should further water quality improvement throughout the Gulf of Mexico. Please refer to the enclosed DEP comments.

Based on the information contained in the above-referenced draft plan and the enclosed comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that the above-referenced action is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program.

2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100

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Internet address: <http://www.dca.state.fl.us>

CRITICAL STATE CONCERN FIELD OFFICE
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

COMMUNITY PLANNING
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

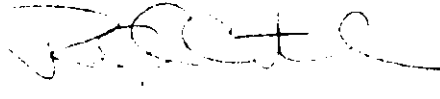
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

Mr. John Wilson
September 11, 2000
Page Two

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Cherie Trainor, Clearinghouse Coordinator, at (850) 414-5495.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Cantral', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ralph Cantral, Executive Director
Florida Coastal Management Program

RC/cc

Enclosures

cc: Carliane Johnson, Department of Environmental Protection

September 11, 2000

Ms. Cherie Trainor
State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Availability and Request for Comment on
Draft Plan of Action for Reducing, Mitigating, and Controlling Hypoxia in the Northern
Gulf of Mexico
SAI: FL200007280520C

Dear Ms. Trainor:

The above-referenced document describes an action plan that focuses on reducing nitrogen loadings from the Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin to the Gulf of Mexico. Model simulations described in the document, suggest that a 40-percent reduction in total nitrogen flux to the Gulf is necessary to return to average loads comparable to those during the 1955-70 period. The plan establishes a goal to reduce by 2010, annual discharges of nitrogen to the Gulf by 350,000 to 650,000 metric tons (a 20 to 40% reduction from the 1980-96 period). As drainage basins in Florida are not part of the Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin, Florida does not appear to have any direct responsibility in implementing the plan, nor are there any apparent conflicts between the plan and current state statutes, rules and water quality programs.

According to the document, approximately 11 percent of the nitrate load come from municipal and industrial point sources, 65 percent from agricultural sources, and 24 percent from other nonpoint sources. The Omnibus Mississippi-Gulf Restoration Fund will initially allocate resources based on an estimate of relative proportion of the need and remedial measures basin-wide. We hope that the creation of this new funding program will not adversely affect current programs that provide funds to the State of Florida for water resource restoration activities.

The plan assumes that Federal, State, and Tribal Governments will provide involved agencies with any new authorities needed to implement proposed actions and with additional appropriations needed to accomplish tasks not presently funded within agency budgets. This assumption requires a long-term commitment by a number of private and public entities, which may be difficult to obtain given the myriad of water resource problems and responsibilities associated with current programs such as Total Maximum Daily Loads, Nonpoint Source, etc. To better address this issue, we recommend close coordination and the use of cooperative funding strategies with the Gulf of Mexico Program partners.

The Department supports the proposed action plan. It is critically important to conduct additional research, and employ greater attention and improved coordination to remediate such a serious problem. As a semi-enclosed basin, impacts to Gulf waters have the potential to affect all Gulf States and EPA's Action Plan should further water quality improvements throughout the

Ms. Trainor
Florida State Clearinghouse
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document. If you should have any questions, please call me at 850/487-2231.

- Sincerely,

Carliane D. Johnson
Environmental Manager

cc: Mr. Jan Mandrup-Poulsen,
DEP Bureau of Watershed Management

COUNTY: State

DATE: 07/28/2000
COMMENTS DUE DATE: 08/28/2000
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 09/11/2000
SAI#: FL20000728052

Message:

STATE AGENCIES

Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
X Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

Northwest Florida WMD

OPB POLICY UNITS

Environmental Policy/C & ED

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State of Florida Clearinghouse

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- X Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

Environmental Protection Agency - Notice of Availability and Request for Comment on Draft Plan of Action for Reducing, Mitigating, and Controlling Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico

To: Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)
(850) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

- ☒ No Comment
- ☐ Comments Attached
- ☐ Not Applicable

Federal Consistency

- ☒ No Comment/Consistent
- ☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
- ☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- ☐ Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BRIAN BARNETT

Reviewer: / /

COUN Y: State

DATE: 07/28/2000
COMMENTS DUE DATE: 08/28/2000
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SAI#: FL20000728052

Message:

STATE AGENCIES

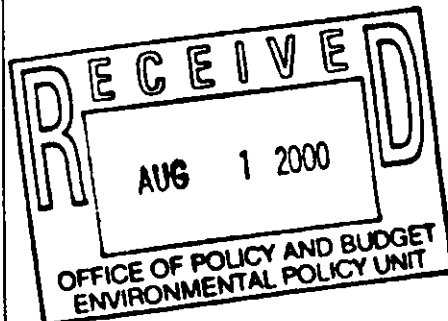
Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
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From:

Division/Bureau:

Reviewer:

E.C. O.P.B. Env Policy
1/1 Tappin